



*Transmitted Via Electronic Mail*

January 20, 2013

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
290 Broadway, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room W-20  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
Attn: Alice Yeh

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 15  
Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation  
Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (Lower Passaic River Study Area)**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

Submitted herein is the Monthly Progress Report for work performed as part of the Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation for the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site (Lower Passaic River Study Area). This progress report has been prepared pursuant to Section IX Paragraph 53 of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Occidental Chemical Corporation, Index No. CERCLA-02-2011-2016.

If you have any questions, please call me at 732.246.5851.

Sincerely,

**Tierra Solutions, Inc.**

Paul Brzozowski  
Remediation Manager  
On behalf of Occidental Chemical Corporation  
(as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company)

cc: Carol E. Dinkins, Vinson & Elkins  
Willard Potter, de maximis, inc.  
Karyllan Dodson Mack, K&L Gates

CSO-SWO\_Investigation\_Monthly\_Report\_No\_15.docx

**10th Floor**

**Two Tower Center Blvd . East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816**

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**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT NO. 15**  
**COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW/STORMWATER OUTFALL INVESTIGATION**  
**DIAMOND ALKALI SUPERFUND SITE (LOWER PASSAIC RIVER STUDY AREA)**  
**WORK PERIOD: DECEMBER 2012**

**Actions Taken Towards Achieving Compliance with the Order**

- ☐ Tierra coordinated with Groundwater Treatment and Technology to continue modifications to the sample collection system and trailer.
- ☐ Tierra continued weather monitoring activities.
- ☐ Tierra coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC) to obtain permission to return effluent to the sample collection manhole. An Application for Letter of Authorization and/or Contractual Indirect Discharge Agreement was submitted to PVSC on December 11, 2012. Tierra also continued to coordinate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to confirm a permit was not required to return effluent to the sample collection manhole and received a letter confirming this from NJDEP on December 3, 2012.
- ☐ Tierra submitted to the USEPA on December 27, 2012 a letter describing planned modifications to the Combined Sewer Overflow/Stormwater Outfall Investigation Quality Assurance Project Plan (CSO/SWO Investigation QAPP) – Lower Passaic River Study Area, Revision 1, May 2011, Addendum issued June 2012. Revisions included the agreed-upon corrective action for organochlorine pesticide analysis (the addition of a second source standard), modifications to field standard operating procedures (SOPs [SOPs # 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10]) based on observations from the field demonstration, revisions to Worksheet #15 based upon the results of the low-solids mass dissolved phase method blank study, and revisions resulting from the USEPA's October 3, 2012 comments on the CSO/SWO Investigation QAPP submitted by Tierra in June 2012. Pending receipt of comments and/or approval from USEPA of this document, Tierra expects to submit Revision 2 of the CSO/SWO Investigation QAPP.
- ☐ Tierra informed the USEPA on December 14, 2012 that Test America Vermont's National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program certification for chlorinated herbicide analysis, SW-846, through the state of New Jersey had expired.

**USEPA and Other Information/Correspondence Received**

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

**Sampling or Testing Results Received or Generated During the Course of Implementing the Work**

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

**Future Plans, Actions and Data Scheduled for January 2013 and February 2013**

- ☐ Continue weather monitoring.
- ☐ Complete modifications to the sample collection system and trailer (estimate mid-January 2013).
- ☐ Complete memorandum documenting the field reconnaissance activities (estimate mid-January 2012).
- ☐ Obtain permission from PVSC to return effluent to the sample collection manhole (estimate mid-January 2012).
- ☐ Initiate Phase I sampling activities upon approval from USEPA (estimate mid-January 2013).

- ☐ Submit the results of the low-solids mass dissolved phase method blank study (estimate late January 2013).
- ☐ Submit the results of the pre-program blank studies to USEPA (estimate late January 2013).

**Actual or Potential Violations, Other Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions**

- ☐ None during this reporting period.

**Delays Encountered or Anticipated and Mitigation Actions**

- ☐ None during this reporting period.